



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAY 18 1979

Docket Nos. STN 50-456
and STN 50-457

Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Mr. Cordell Reed
Vice President
P. O. Box 767
One First National Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Gentlemen:

In the letter of April 9, 1979 from W. F. Naughton of your staff to Dr. S. Stanley Kirsliis of our staff, Commonwealth Edison Company requested a change in the fish eggs and larvae portion of the aquatic monitoring programs for Braidwood Station. The change is principally to substitute other sampling locations for those on transect 3 (in the intake area) and for those on transect 5 (downstream of the discharge area). There were sampling problems at the two transects during periods of low river flow.

The main objective of the preoperational aquatic monitoring program is to establish a baseline for the seasonal and annual variation of the water quality and aquatic biology parameters of the Kankakee River in the Braidwood area. It would be desirable to sample specifically the near-shore water that would be drawn into the intake when pumping begins, but this is not practicable at low river flow because the near-shore water is too shallow and flows too slowly.

The modified sampling for fish eggs and larvae would be at upstream locations on transect 2 and on a new transect at the railroad bridge, with the same total number of sampling locations as in the initial program. Sampling of water quality, the benthic community and fish would continue as before at transects 3 and 5.

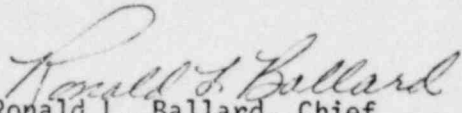
The staff has evaluated the proposed modified monitoring program in light of the above considerations and has concluded that it would accomplish the objectives of the previously approved program outlined in the letter of Mr. G. J. Pliml of August 26, 1976 to S. S. Kirsliis. Our staff therefore approves the proposed modifications of the aquatic monitoring program.

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We have consulted with Mr. Ken Rogers and Mr. Don Richardson of the Illinois EPA regarding possible conflicts between our approval and their responsibilities under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Our approval of the monitoring changes above should not be interpreted as restricting any future decisions of the Illinois EPA in these matters.

Sincerely,


Ronald L. Ballard, Chief
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cc: See next page

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